Amendments to the Claims

Please **rewrite** claims 1-4, 6, 8, 10-13, 15 and 17-18.

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for reading from or writing to optical recording media, comprising:

a tracking device,

a four-quadrant detector,

two summation points,

a phase ~~comparator~~ detector for tracking in accordance with ~~the~~ a differential phase detection method, said phase detector comprising converters and a phase comparator, and

variable delay elements that can be set by a control device, wherein

at least one of said variable delay elements is a ~~digital~~ binary variable delay element and at least one of said variable delay elements is ~~an analog~~ a waveform-preserving ~~variable~~ delay element, wherein

at least one of said variable delay elements is arranged between ~~one of said summation points for output signals of detector elements of the four-quadrant detector~~ one of said converters and said phase comparator and at least one of said variable delay elements is arranged between said four-quadrant detector and one of said summation points, wherein no ~~digital~~ binary variable delay element is arranged between said four-quadrant detector and one of said ~~summation points~~ converters.

2. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that respective ~~digital~~ binary delay elements of the variable delay elements are assigned to the summation points, and in that a switching device is present for the purpose of connecting one of the ~~digital~~ binary delay elements to an output of an offset determining device.

3. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to Claim 1, characterized in that a switching device is present for the purpose of inserting a ~~digital~~ binary delay element of the variable delay elements between one of the summation points and the phase comparator.

4. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that a switching device is present for connecting two of the ~~variable~~ detector elements of the four-quadrant detector to respective ~~analog~~ waveform-preserving delay elements.

5. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that an interference signal generating device is present, whose output is connected to the tracking device and to a first input of the control device, whose second input is connected to the output of the phase comparator.

6. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to Claim 5, characterized in that the control device has a comparison device, at whose inputs the output signal of the phase comparator and the output signal of the interference signal generating device are present and whose output signal serves for setting at least one ~~analog~~ waveform-preserving delay element of the variable delay elements.

7. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that a control output of the control device, at which an output signal is present, is assigned a circuit block, which determines at least one of absolute value and sign of the signal present at the control output.

8. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that a converter is connected between a ~~digital~~ binary delay element of the variable delay elements and one of the summation points.

9. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the control device and at least some of the variable delay elements are realized on an integrated circuit.

10. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to Claim 1, characterized in that the control device has an offset determining device, at whose input the output signal of the phase comparator is present and whose output signal serves for setting at least one ~~digital~~ binary delay element of the variable delay elements.

11. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 10, characterized in that ~~digital~~ binary delay elements of the variable delay elements are respectively assigned to the summation points, and in that a switching device is present for the purpose of connecting one of the ~~digital~~ binary delay elements to the output of the offset determining device.

12. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to Claim 10, characterized in that a switching device is present for the purpose of inserting a ~~digital~~ binary delay element of the variable delay elements between one of the summation points and the phase comparator.

13. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to Claim 10, characterized in that a switching device is present for connecting two of the detector elements of the four-quadrant detector to respective ~~analog~~ waveform-preserving delay elements of the variable delay elements.

14. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 10, characterized in that an interference signal generating device is present, whose output is connected to the tracking device and to a first input of the control device, whose second input is connected to the output of the phase comparator.

15. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to Claim 14, characterized in that the control device has a comparison device, at whose inputs the output signal of the phase comparator and the output signal of the interference signal generating device are present and whose output signal serves for setting at least one ~~analog~~ waveform-preserving delay element of the variable delay elements.

16. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 10, characterized in that a control output of the control device, at which an output signal is present, is assigned a circuit block, which determines at least one of absolute value and sign of the signal present at the control output.

17. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 10, characterized in that a converter is connected between the ~~digital~~ binary delay element and one of the summation points.

18. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 10, characterized in that the control device and at least some of the variable delay elements are realized on an integrated circuit.